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23 January 1951

	MEMORANDUM FOR:	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)	
25X1	SUBJECT:	Publicity and Public Relations Question Raised by Mr. James Reston of the New York Times with Mr. Concerning Covert Psychological Warfare Measures	
	with Mr. Dulles	morandum will confirm a conversation which I had today in which I raised with him a question of publicity and	
25X1	Reston indicated series of articl in the field of covert aspects of public and the O ject and that it assurance that s	t had with Mr. James Reston of the New York Times. Mr. that he proposed to write an article or perhaps a es concerning the effort which the government is making psychological warfare with particular reference to the f this effort. Mr. Reston took the position that the longress are becoming increasingly interested in this su is necessary to satisfy this interest by some form of omething is being done by the government in the field.	ub-
25X1	obligated to give asked me whether	to me he had ducked the question temporarily but felt e Mr. Reston some kind of an answer very soon. He he should refer Mr. Reston to myself. I told Mr.	
25X1	that he tell Mr. quiry by the app whether he could in favor of giving Reston would be he could tell Mr.	should not refer Mr. Reston to me, and I suggested Reston that "consideration is being given to his in- ropriate authorities". wanted to know also inform Mr. Reston that in the event of a decision ng out information on this general subject that Mr. one of the first to be informed. He said that unless Reston this he believed that Mr. Reston would under- speculative piece which could be misleading and damagin	ng.
25X1	I told statement to Mr.	that I saw no objection to his making this additional Reston, providing that he was careful not to include that there would be a disclosure of information in	al
	which has been g	ton's inquiry serves to highlight and point up a proble rowing increasingly large and troublesome for some time the public and the Congress have become very aware of as of psychological warfare ("the battle for men's minde	e.
		and more recently	

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3. The problem is, therefore, to decide what our position should be, and if this question should be resolved favorably to giving out some form of assurance, what the means and extent of the giving should be. It is my own view that it should be possible to find a formula which would sufficiently satisfy public and Congressional inquiries without at the same time giving any information to the Russians which they do not already have or assume. I do not think that the CIA should be identified as the operative Agency, and my thought as to the manner in which this could be handled would be to tie the release up with an announcement of some new development in the general propaganda and psychological warfare field. The difficulty here is to find the proper event or development to which the release could be related. This might take the form of an announcement made in connection with the appointment of the overall coordinator for the national psychological warfare effort (this is the matter which is still unresolved as between the Departments of State and Defense and the JCS, and which I discussed in this connection with Mr. Dulles in the conversation mentioned above).

4. Your advice and guidance on this matter will be most appreciated.

will be expecting some word from us in the not too distant
future.

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5. Irrespective of what the determination should be as regards the giving out of some kind of information (reassurance) to the public or the press, there remains the necessity for arriving at some procedure and formula for dealing with serious members of the Congress who consider that they have a legitimate interest in knowing something about what is going on. Congressional inquiries continue to reach us in many ways, usually via representatives of the Departments of State and Defense who are exposed to Congressional appropriations and foreign relations committees. For example, about two weeks ago, was jumped on the same day by members of the House and Senate subcommittees

of the respective

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	of the respective foreign relations committees with a series of ques-
	tions as to what is being done in the covert PW field. In accordance
	with a previously agreed formula, replied that the members
	of the Congress could rest assured that measures in this field were
	receiving appropriate consideration in the Government; that he (Mr.
I	did not think the Congressmen would want to know too much
	of the details and that if his questioners would consider this carefully
	he felt sure that they would agree; and finally that if after such
	reflection some of his questioners still felt a compulsion upon them
	to know more, he would undertake to see to it that they
_	would be contacted by the appropriate officials. According to Mr.
L	this formula worked successfully on this occasion, as it has
	on other occasions in the past-except for one questioner who was
	adamant. This was Congresswoman Bolton of Ohio who was insistent
	upon being placed in touch with an official who could and would talk
	frankly to her. (I have discussed this matter with Mr. Houston, who
	undertook to raise the problem with the Director or yourselvesbut
	I have not heard from him.)

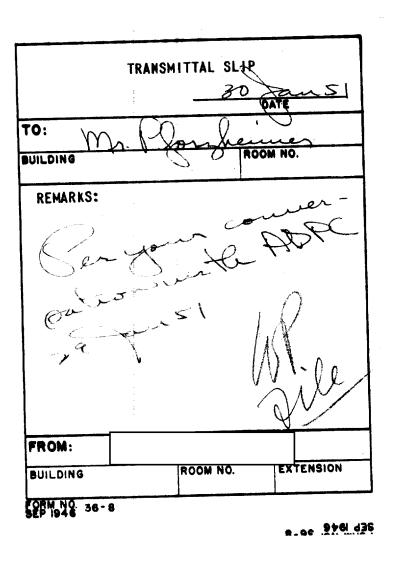
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FRANK G. WISNER
Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

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